



**Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks**

Region One  
490 North Meridian Rd.  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
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Ref:DV137-01  
May 4, 2001

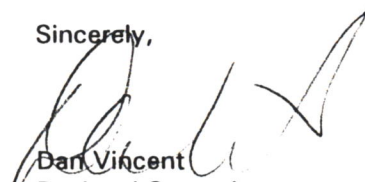
TO: Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Helena, 59620-1704  
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Metcalf Bldg., PO Box 200901, Helena, 59620-0901  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Director's Office – Rich Clough Parks Division – Jeff Erickson, Allan Kuser  
Fisheries Division – Karen Zackheim, Larry Peterman Legal Unit  
Lands – Darlene Edge, Debbie Dils Design & Construction – Dick Mayer  
Montana Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, 225 North Roberts, Veteran's  
Memorial Building, Helena, 59620-1201  
Montana State Library, 1515 East Sixth Ave., Helena, 59620-1800  
Jim Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, PO Box 1184, Helena, 59624  
George Ochenski, PO Box 689, Helena, 59624  
Wayne Hirst, Montana State Parks Foundation, PO Box 728, Libby, 59923  
Montana State Parks Association, PO Box 699, Billings, 59103  
Joe Gutkoski, President, Montana River Action Network, 304 N 18<sup>th</sup> Ave., Bozeman, 59715  
Rep. Paul Sliter, PO Box 118, Somers, 59932  
Sen. Bob Keenan, Box 697, Bigfork, 59911-0697  
Rep. Rob Raney, 212 S. 6<sup>th</sup>, Livingston, 59047  
Flathead County Commissioners, 800 S Main Street, Kalispell, 59901  
Flathead County Library, 247 First Avenue E, Kalispell, 59901

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region One, has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) for  
Little McGregor Lake for the purpose of capital development of a fishing access site.

There were no changes to the draft EA; therefore, the draft becomes the final EA. A copy of the  
Decision Document is enclosed for your information.

Sincerely,



Dan Vincent  
Regional Supervisor

DV/nli  
Enclosure

**Decision Notice  
and  
Finding of No Significant Impact  
for  
Improvements at  
Little McGregor Lake**

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
Region 1  
490 N. Meridian  
Kalispell, MT 59901

April 26, 2001

**Description of the Proposed Action:**

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Region One, proposes to reconstruct and upgrade the site as shown in the master plan. This would include:

1. Working with the property owners west of the present legal right-of-way (ROW) to provide an adequate ROW width to ensure present and future road width needed for access improvement.
2. Reconstruction of a single-lane access road, with pullouts, to the recreation site. This will include relocating the road away from the lakeshore to meet Best Management Practices.
3. Construction of a parking area within the site, and graveling the boat ramp, which should reduce erosion and siltation flowing into the lake. As the lake is designated as a no-wake lake, improvements to the boat ramp will not accommodate larger boats.
4. Provision of a porta-potty during the summer months. As the level of development is primitive to fit current use patterns, accommodations for use by the handicapped will not be provided at this time.

**Public Comment:**

Eight comments were received. Issues raised include:

1. Road improvements will put too much pressure on the lake. While it is recognized that improvements to the road may cause more individuals to use the lake, the limited development and design on the boat ramp should limit numbers of people and size of boats. Capacity should be managed in a proactive manner and not by providing facilities that do not meet adequate standards.
2. Consider having the lake be nonmotorized. Little McGregor was designated a no-wake lake in 2000. It was decided at that time to go with use restrictions rather than motor restrictions to not preclude people from using equipment

they already have. While concern for gas in the water has been identified as an issue, the impact to water quality from this source is not considered significant.


3. Consider making the lake catch-and-release. This recommendation would require a change in the fishing regulations and will be passed on to Fisheries to consider in the regulation-setting process.
4. Fishing pressure will increase and damage the fisheries resource. The limited parking area should limit access to some extent. Stocking levels could also be adjusted if needed to keep fish availability the same as is currently experienced.
5. Increased use will ruin what is a quiet and beautiful recreational area. The level of development will limit the number of vehicles and campers that can use this site. This should restrict overuse of the site. Also the day-use-only restrictions on the west side of the lake will be enforced now that alternative camping is available.
6. Who will supervise the area. The area is part of the Thompson Chain of Lakes and will be managed as are the other primitive sites in this 3,000-acre recreational area. If vandalism and misuse become major issues, a camp host will be considered.

**Finding of No Significant Impact:**

Based on the analysis in the Environmental Assessment (EA), I find Alternative 2, the reconstruction and upgrading as listed above, to be the preferred alternative. I have evaluated the EA and applicable laws, regulations, and policies and have determined that this action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

The final Environmental Assessment and the FONSI may be viewed at or obtained from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Region One, 490 N. Meridian, Kalispell, MT 59901. Please direct requests and questions to:

Marty Watkins, Parks Manager  
490 N. Meridian  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
(406) 751-4573  
mawatkins@state.mt.us

  
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Daniel P. Vincent  
Regional Supervisor

8/7/01  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date